

FREE
STICKERS



I LOVE TO READ

SEGA
COMPETITION

BATMAN™

INSIDE
MEET:



SUPERMAN

Featuring



CLAYFACE
& MORE...

ALSO INSIDE:
YOUR FUN
PULL-OUT
WORKBOOK



EVERY MONTH



02>

ACTION STORIES ADVENTURE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second issue of **I Love to Read Batman**.

This month don't miss your chance to win a fantastic Batman and Robin **Mega Drive** game in our exclusive SEGA competition on page 7.

In the second half of this issue, **I Love to Read Batman** welcomes to its pages another DC super hero, **Superman**.

Learn about Superman's history in the Super Hero File which you can cut out and add to your Batman Super Hero File from the first issue. Then read

Superman's exciting adventure story, "The Mechanical Monsters".

Finally, when you have removed this issue's pull-out workbook, you can pull out and keep the great double-page poster of Superman in the centre. Have fun...



BATMAN™

3 BURN THE BATMAN!

Batman finds himself wanted by the Police. Find out why!

7 COMPETITION

An opportunity to win a SEGA Mega Drive II plus "The Adventures of Batman & Robin" game.

8 PURSUIT!

Find out how the Batmobile got smashed up!

12 POSTER

Save this great picture poster of Superman and put it on your wall.

15 PULL-OUT ACTIVITIES

Eight pages packed with puzzles and games for you to play.

22 TALKING PART!

An invitation to write to us and have a laugh at some of the Joker's favourite jokes!

25 HERO FILE

Find out about Superman and how he developed his superhuman abilities.

25 THE MECHANICAL MONSTERS

Jimmy Olsen gets into a tight squeeze in this six-page comic story. Superman comes to the rescue but not without getting into a bit of a squeeze himself!



IN

HUNT THE BATMAN

Detective Harvey Bullock of the Gotham City police department is a tough cop who believes Batman is "muscling in" on his territory.

While arresting a mugger one night, the detective was annoyed by a familiar figure swooping from the moonlit sky...

**BACK OFF,
BATMAN.
THIS LOSER'S
MINE!**

BATMAN created by Bob Kane

To Bullock's astonishment, and pain, the man in the cape and cowl attacked him. The mugger hardly believed it either.

**I'M FREE!
BATMAN'S
CHANGED
SIDES!**

The next morning, Police Commissioner James Gordon reluctantly reached the same conclusion. "It's Batman's third criminal act in a week," he sighed.

**I'M AFRAID I
HAVE NO CHOICE.
ARREST BATMAN
ON SIGHT!**

Meanwhile in the Batcave, Batman realised that something was wrong.

"THE GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT PUT OUT A WARRANT FOR BATMAN'S ARREST TODAY."

SOMEONE'S POSING AS BATMAN AND COMMITTING CRIMES!

Batman scanned the Batcomputer's files looking for a lead. Alfred, his faithful butler, was worried.

"NOW OTHER NEWS - GOTHAM MUSEUM WILL DISPLAY SOME OF ENGLAND'S CROWN JEWELS TODAY..."

CLEARING YOUR NAME WITH THE POLICE AFTER YOU WILL BE DIFFICULT.

Finally, a recent news item caught the eye of the World's Greatest Detective.

WRESTLING STAR THE CENTURION STILL MISSING

VERY FEW HAVE MY BUILD OR THE STRENGTH TO MIMIC MY ABILITIES. AND YET...

"He has attended your fund-raising events, Sir," said Alfred. "He's an honest man - what would turn him to crime?"

MAYBE IT'S NOT "WHAT", BUT "WHO"...

Recalling an earlier TV news story, an idea formed in Batman's mind. He checked the active villains file.

THE CROWN JEWELS, THE ULTIMATE HEADWARE.

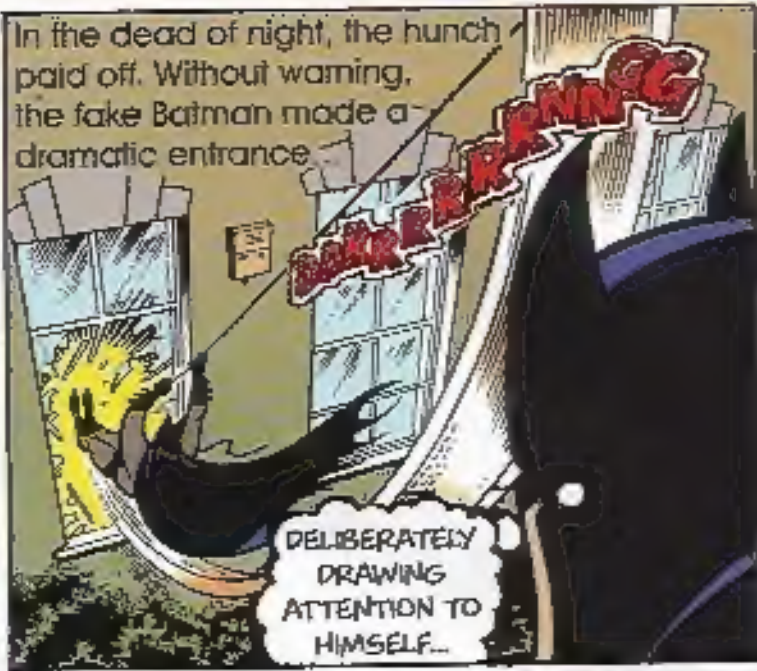
THE MAD HATTER WOULD DO ANYTHING TO STEAL THEM.

Twisted and deranged, the Mad Hatter - an expert in mind control - used devices hidden in headware to turn his victims into his puppets.

Later, hunted by the Police, Batman clung to the shadows of the Gotham skyline. Trusting his hunch, he staked out the museum.



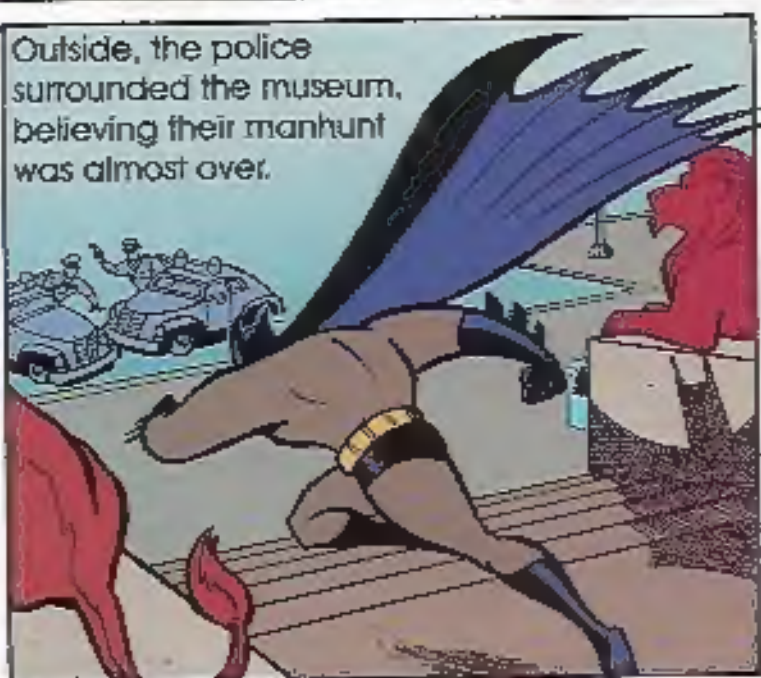
In the dead of night, the hunch paid off. Without warning, the fake Batman made a dramatic entrance.



The museum security guards gave chase.



Outside, the police surrounded the museum, believing their manhunt was almost over.



They were wrong!

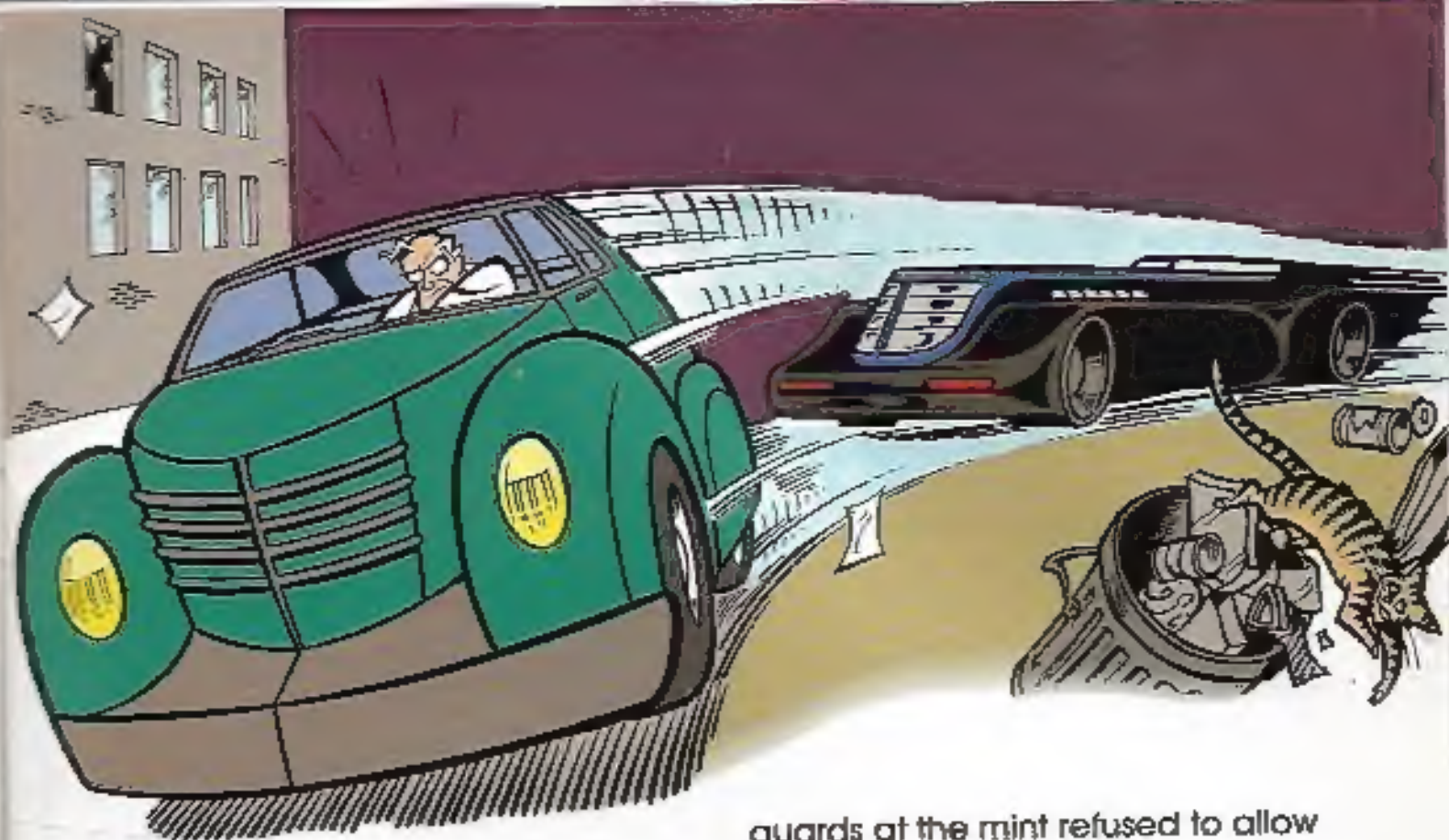


JUST A FINAL TWEAK TO CENTURION'S PROGRAMMING...

I CAN'T HAVE HIM CAPTURED TOO SOON!







"Must have been some impact," Dick surmised, inviting Bruce to reveal what had happened.

As they set about removing the mangled grilling, Bruce explained how Commissioner Gordon had requested Batman's help after security guards at the Gotham Mint had called the police. "The guards saw the mint's director arrive after midnight," Bruce continued, "but even though he was the exact likeness of the director, it had to be an impostor. The real director had left on a business trip to Europe that afternoon."

"An **exact** likeness? Then it could have been that actor Matt Hagen, alias **Clayface**!" Dick asserted. "He's the only villain I know who can totally reshape his body at will. He could easily make himself into an exact double of anyone."

Bruce nodded, approving of his young ward's intuition, adding that Clayface snapped when the

guards at the mint refused to allow him inside. "He jumped into his car and tried to ram the security gates. He was reversing for a second attempt when I arrived in the Batmobile."

A knowing smile crept across Dick's face. "I get it. He drove right for you, didn't he? Thought he could handle a fender-to-fender with the Batmobile - what a fool!"

"It wasn't like that," corrected Bruce. "The instant he saw me, Clayface burned rubber to get away. I could see the guards were unharmed, so I hit the power and gave chase. His car could move, but it was still no match for the Batmobile. It took just a couple of blocks to eat up the distance between us."

"Now it makes sense," Dick reasoned. "The instant the Batmobile raced up alongside him, he slammed into the Batmobile and tried to force the Batmobile off the road! Bet he totalled his own car in the process though, huh?"

"He would have if he'd attempted such a manoeuvre," Bruce agreed, "but he didn't." Dick frowned, quite puzzled now.

"By that time, we were downtown," continued Bruce. "It was still buzzing with people even at that hour, so using any of the Batmobile's weapons to take him out was too dangerous. Yet I had to stop him, and fast - if he lost control at those speeds, dozens could have been hurt.

"Somehow, I had to get on board his car. If I could do that, there was a good chance of ending the situation without too much trouble. I was sitting right on his tail, close enough to snag the car with a hook from the grappling gun. Timing was the tricky part - after the hook took hold, I'd have less than a second to trigger the grappler's rewind, cut the Batmobile's power, and leap out."

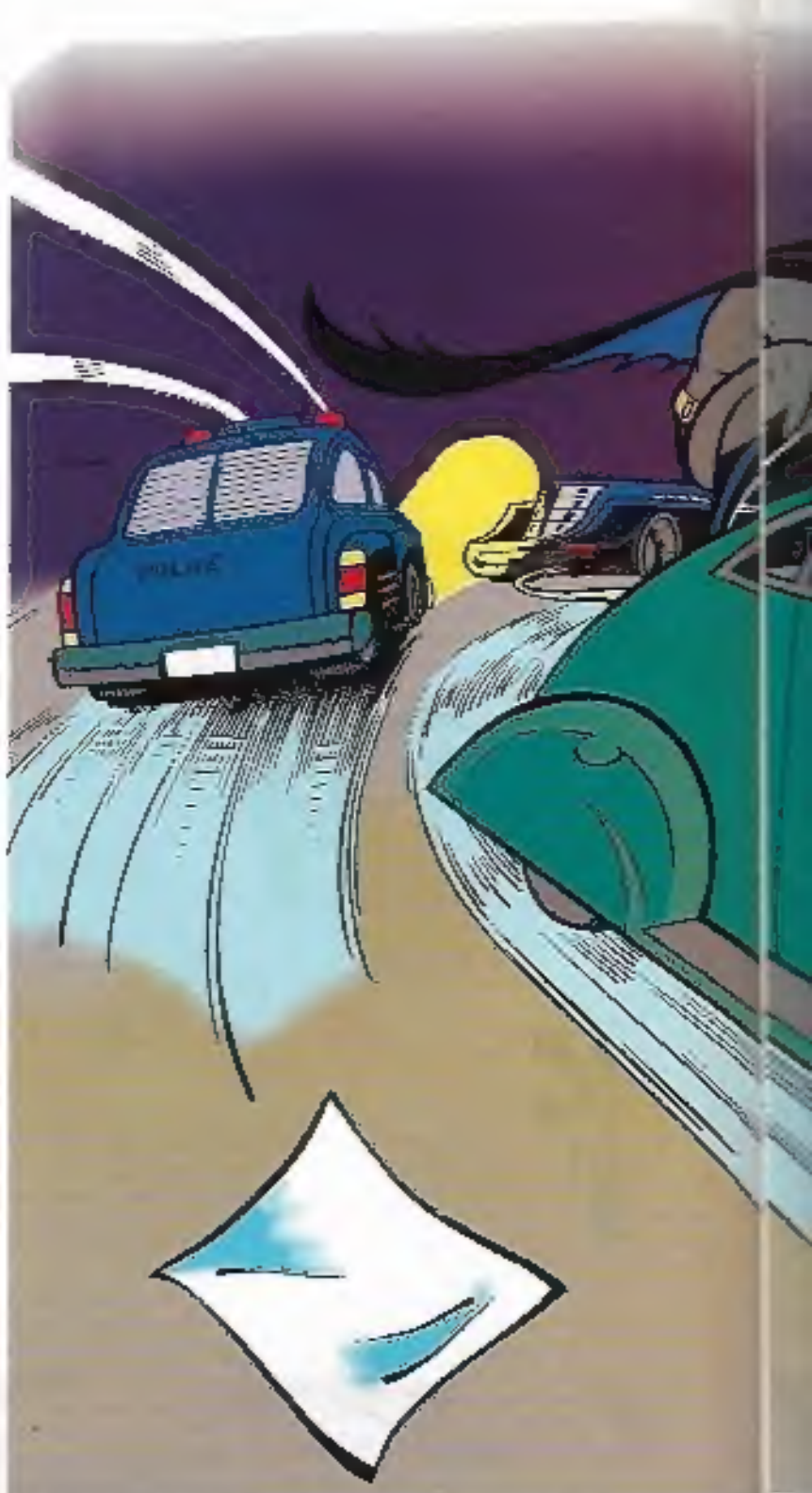
Dick opened his mouth to speak, but stayed silent when he saw Bruce shaking his head. "No, it wasn't then either," Bruce informed him. "I fired the grappler at Clayface's car. The hook smashed through the rear window. When it bit into the back seat, I hit the switch and flew. The Batmobile coasted to a smooth stop.

"The rewinding cable yanked me through the air and towards his car. Gravity sucked me down, but there was just enough pull from the cable to get me to his boot.

"At that point a police car sped past in the opposite direction. Right after it had flashed by, Clayface

began fishtailing his car to shake me off. But with the grappler still reeling me in on the hook, the only place I was going was inside through the broken rear window."

"And when you made it, the only place Clayface was going was jail!" declared Dick. "Once you were



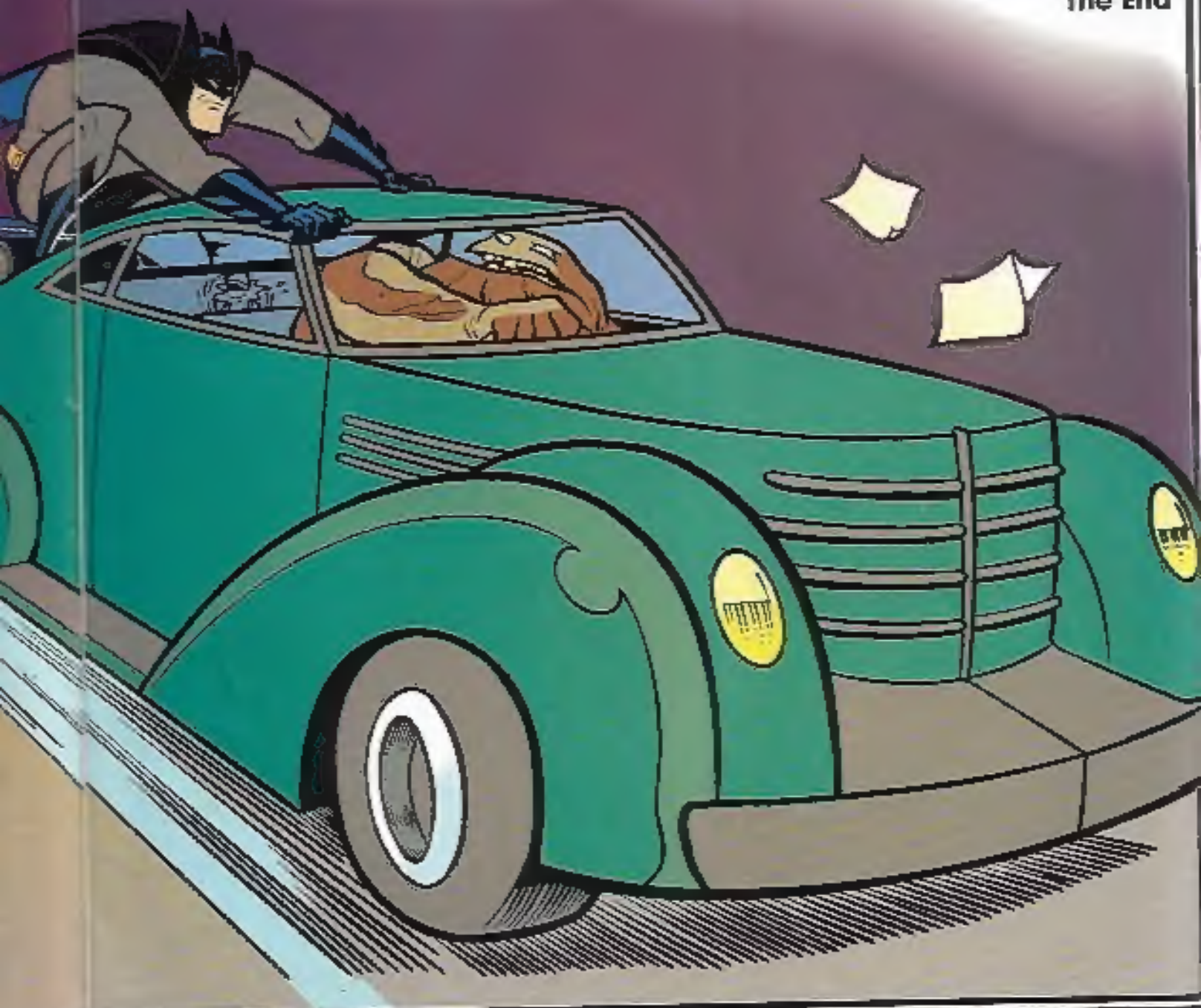
in behind him, the game was over. What else could he do, except pull over and give himself up? But none of that explains how the Batmobile — Dick paused for a second to reflect, then added, "Unless - you mentioned a police car..."

"Very perceptive," smiled Bruce. "So if I tell you our old friend Detective Harvey Bullock was at the

wheel, and that when he saw me clinging to the back of Clayface's car, he attempted a hand-brake turn..."

"Oh no," groaned Dick, correctly imagining at last exactly what had happened. "He blew it completely, didn't he, and careered full tilt into the stationary Batmobile." Dick looked again at the extent of the damage to the vehicle, and shook his head. "Still, if he managed to do this to the Batmobile, I'd hate to see the state of **his** car..!"

The End



READER
I LOVE TO READ

BATMAN™

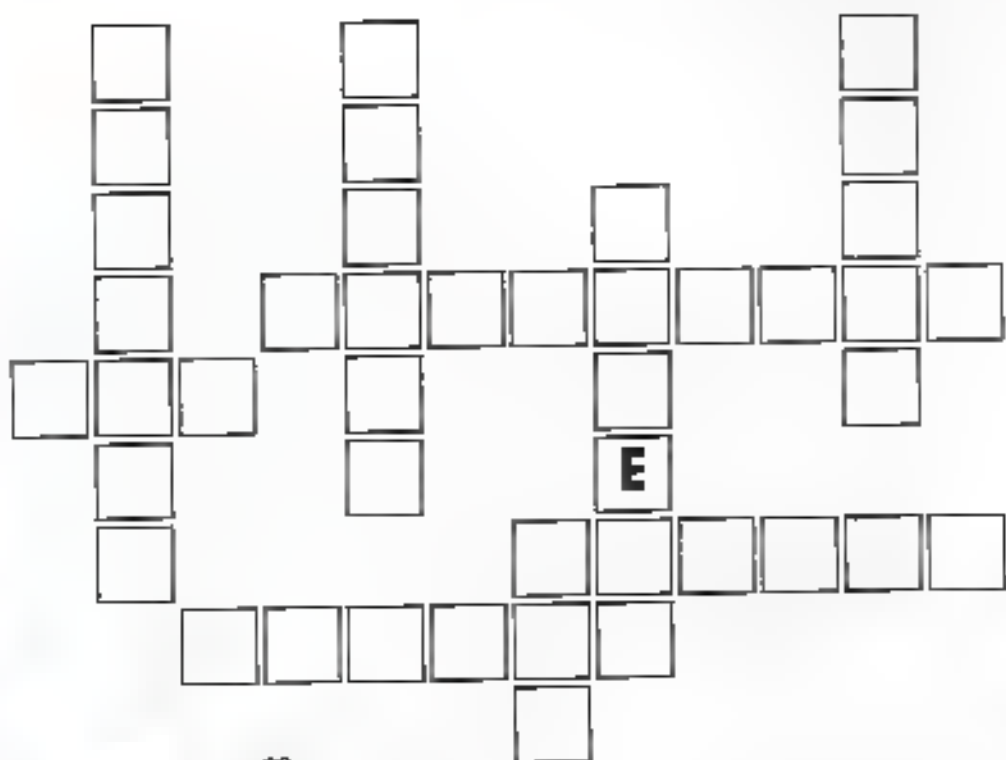


BATMAN™ WORKBOOK

FIT THEM IN

The Mad Hatter has set this puzzle for you. All of the words will fit into the grid of squares shown below.

Can you work out how they fit?
You have been given one clue to start off



3 LETTERS
COP
MAD

5 LETTERS
DECOY

7 LETTERS
BULLOCK

6 LETTERS
GOTHAM
JEWELS
MUGGER
MUSEUM

9 LETTERS
CENTURION



BAT WORDS

All of the answers to these clues have the letters BAT in them.
Can you work them out?



Discussion D E B A T E

The Dark Knight B A T M A N

A warship B A T I L E S H I P

Something you wash in B A T H

Crazy B A T I Y

Stick used by a music conductor B A T O N

An Australian animal W O M B A T

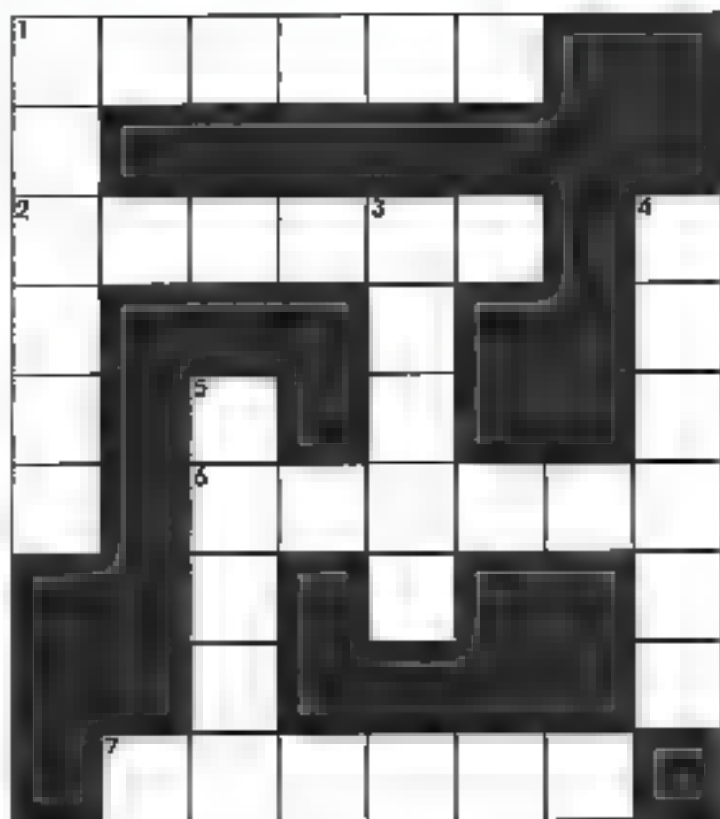
Fish is sometimes cooked in this B A T I E R

A large seabird A L B A T R O S S

It produces electricity B A T I E R Y

CROSSWORD

Fill in the crossword below using the clues provided.



Across:

- 1 Building where historical things are put on display
- 2 City in which Batman lives.
- 6 Police capture of a criminal
- 7 Precious stones

Down:

- 1 Street robber.
- 3 Warning device to stop burglars.
- 4 He controls minds! He could be mad!
- 5 Batman's real name is Bruce _____



HUNDRED WORDS

The word "Centurion" was used many years ago to describe the commander of a hundred men in the Roman army. It comes from an ancient word "centum" meaning one hundred. The letters "CENT" are also found in lots of other words. See if you can work out the answers to these clues - each answer begins with the letters CENT.



100

100

The hundredth part
of a dollar

100

There are a hundred of
them in a metre

A hundred years

100

A heat scale made up of
a hundred degrees

100

A hundredth anniversary

100

A hundredth of a
French franc

100

100

It is supposed to have
a hundred legs

100

COLOURING

Take your coloured pens and pencils and colour
in this picture of Batman and the Mad Hatter.



ANAGRAMS

Here are some words chosen from the story "The Mechanical Monsters". Can you make words of **three letters or more**, using the letters from these words? Some examples have been done to start you off.



MECHANICAL

ANIMAL

METROPOLIS

POLITE

PHOTOGRAPHER

REPORT

KILGRAVE

RAIL



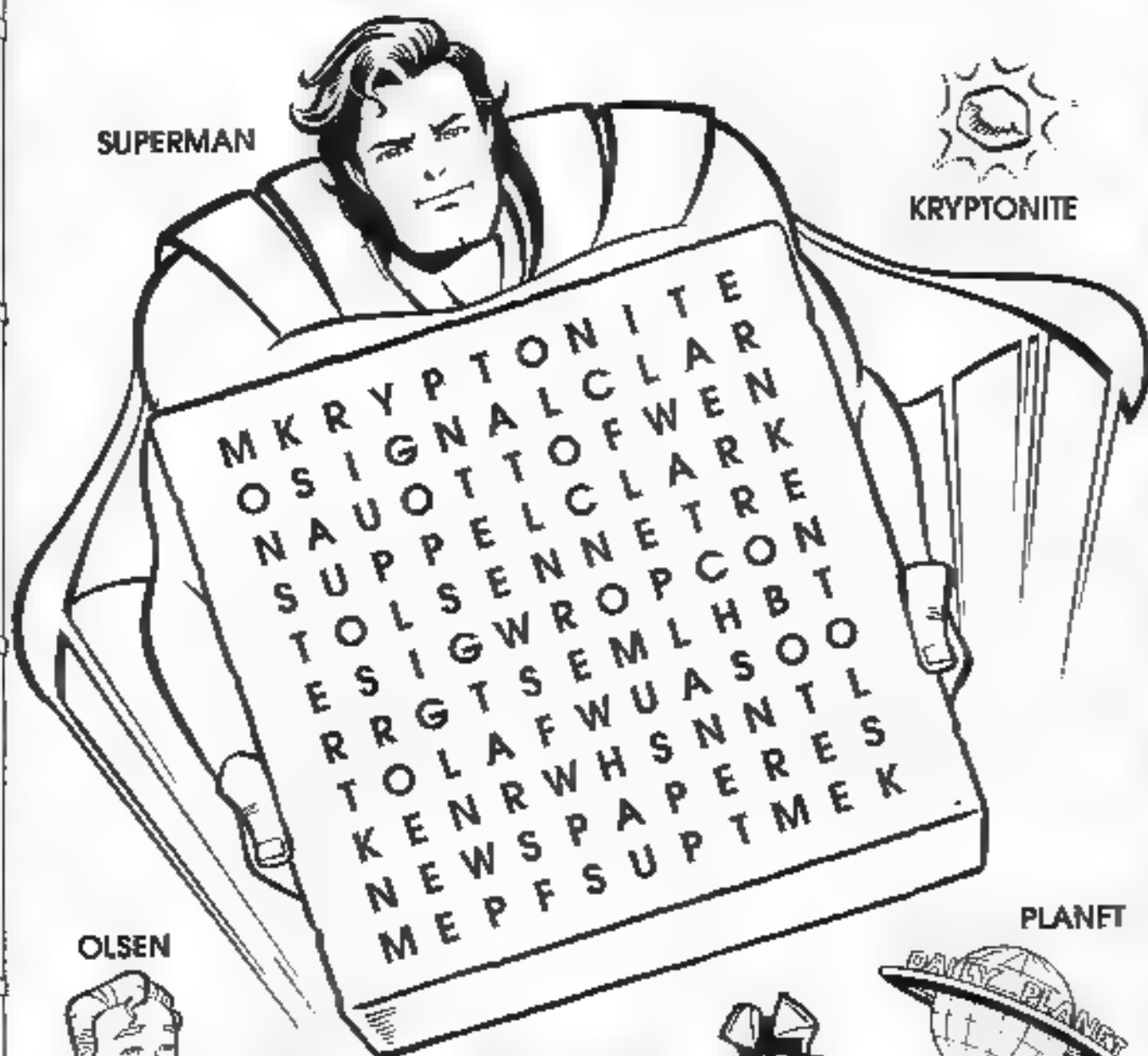
SEEK AND FIND

Jimmy Olsen is trying to find the words written beside the pictures below in this wordsearch. They are written diagonally, downwards and across. Help him find the words by circling each one when you have found it.

SUPERMAN



KRYPTONITE



OLSEN



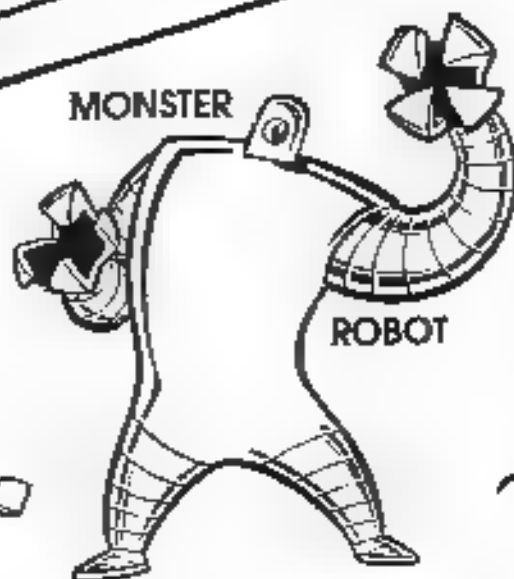
NEWSPAPER

SIGNAL



WATCH

MONSTER



ROBOT

PLANET

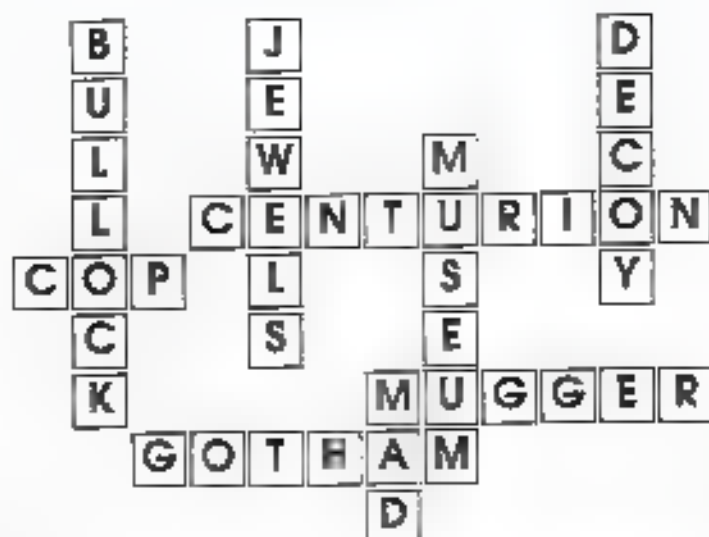


CLARK
KENT



ANSWERS

FIT THEM IN



BUT WORDS

- DEBATE
- BATMAN
- BATTLESHIP
- BATH • BATTY
- BATON
- WOMBAT
- BATTER
- ALBATROSS
- BATTERY

CROSSWORD



HUNDRED WORDS

- The hundredth part of a dollar - CENT.
- There are a hundred of them in a metre - CENTIMETRE.
- A hundred years - CENTURY.
- A heat scale made up of a hundred degrees - CENTIGRADE.
- A hundredth anniversary - CENTENARY.
- A hundredth of a French franc - CENTIME.
- It is supposed to have a hundred legs - CENTIPEDE.

SEEK AND FIND





JOKING APART!

What's Batman's
favourite sport?
Batminton!

Why did Catwoman give
back all the money she
had stolen?
She was feeling generous
to a vault!

WHY DID THE JOKER THROW
HIS WATCH OUT OF THE
WINDOW?
HE WANTED TO SEE TIME
FLY!

WHAT TYPE OF ROBBERY
ISN'T DANGEROUS.
A SAFE ROBBERY.

WHY DID THE JOKER TAKE A BATH
BEFORE BREAKING OUT OF
ARKHAM ASYLUM?
HE WANTED A CLEAN GET AWAY!

What did Batman and
Robin do when they
heard about the
kidnapping?
"H I D I T"

Why was the judge so
exhausted?
He'd had a trying day!

Why can't Catwoman
steal the River
Thames?
It's got too many
locks.

Who is the main witness at a
bank robber's trial?
The teller!

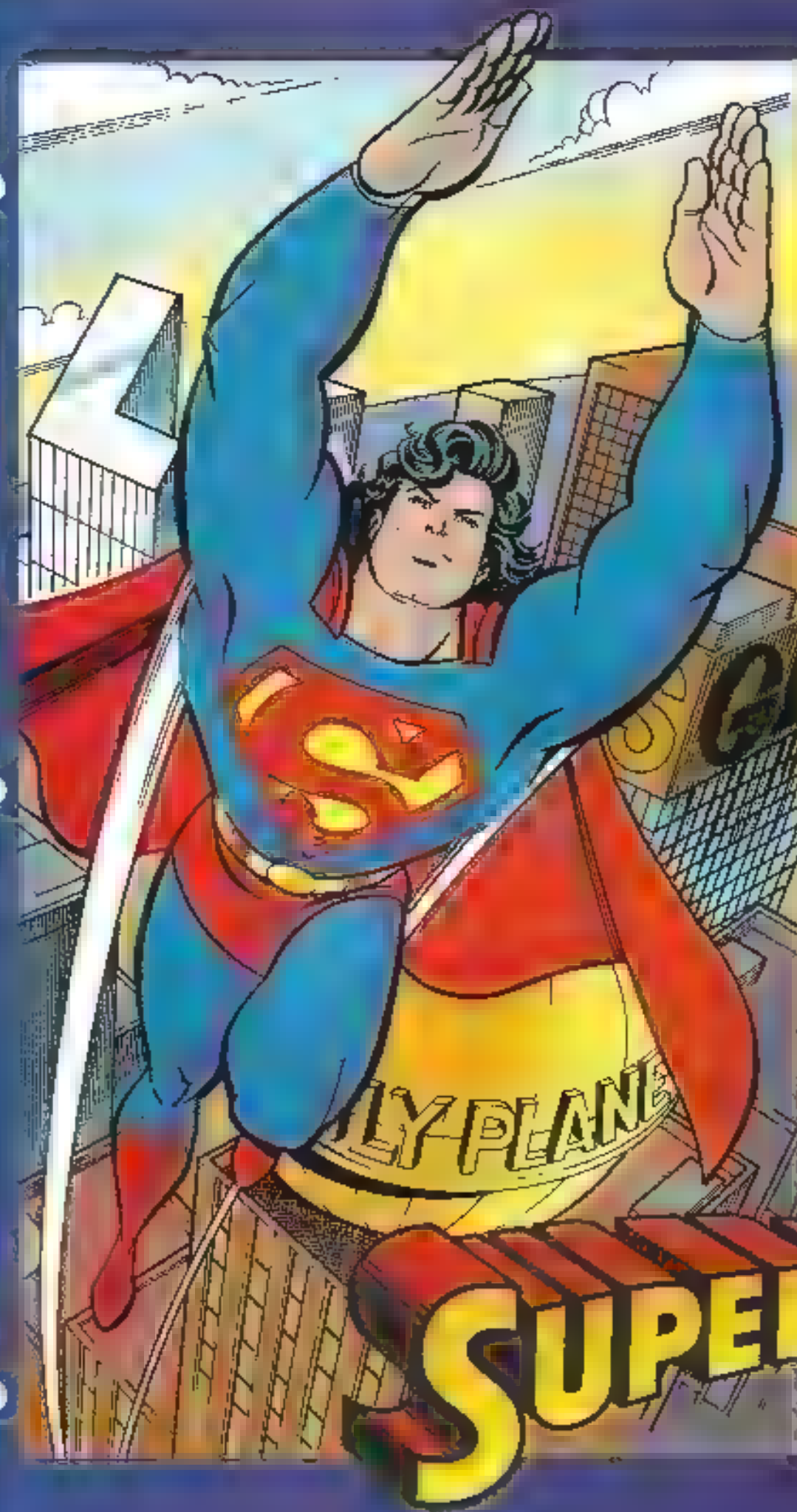
If the Joker smashed a clock, would
he be accused of killing time?
Not if the clock struck first!

Why did the Joker try
to sell dirt to people?
He wanted to make
grime pay!



DO YOU HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
PERSON WHO STOLE THE MONEY FROM
THE BANK? IF NOT, PLEASE
CONTACT THE POLICE AT
020 8345 6789. WE WILL
REWARD YOU WITH THE BEST OF US.





THE HERO FILE

Age 24
Clark Kent (Earth name),
Kal-El (Kryptonian name)

Group Affiliation
Adventurer, reporter,
columnist, novelist

Known Relatives
Jor-El (father,
deceased), Lara (mother,
deceased), Jonathan
Kent (adoptive father),
Martha Kent (adoptive mother)

Group Affiliation
Justice League America
(former member)

Base of Operations
Metropolis

First Appearance
ACTION COMICS #1
June 1938

Height 6 feet 3 inches

Weight 225 pounds

Eyes Blue

Hair Black

SUPERMAN

Superman created by
Jerry Siegel and
Joe Shuster

He is the only survivor of the distant planet Krypton. He has dedicated his life to a never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the good of all humanity. He is the greatest super hero of all time. His name is Superman.

Superman's father, Jor-El, was the leading scientist on the planet Krypton. Discovering that a nuclear chain reaction would soon destroy their planet, Jor-El and his wife Lara safely placed their unborn son, Kal-El, into a life-sustaining chamber in an experimental spaceship and launched it toward Earth just moments before Krypton exploded.

On a farm in Smallville, Kansas, Jonathan and Martha Kent discovered the ship and the tiny baby that had been born inside it. They named the baby Clark and raised him as their own son. As a child, Clark seemed perfectly normal, and the Kents instilled in him a strong sense of justice and responsibility. It was only when Clark was a teenager that his alien body began to show signs of his incredible powers.

Clark left Smallville to attend Metropolis University. One day he spotted an airplane about to crash. Without stopping to think, he leapt into the air and guided the plane to the ground. One of the passengers was Lois Lane, a reporter for the *Daily Planet* who nicknamed her savior "Superman" in the story she wrote for the paper. Realizing how much good he could do as Superman, Clark created a striking costume with an S emblem on his chest, becoming the world's greatest costumed superhero.

Superman's extraordinary powers are the result of the Earth's sun. On Krypton, under a red sun, he would have grown up with normal strength; here on Earth, the yellow sun gives him a variety of super-powers: flight, invulnerability, super-speed, and super-strength. He also possesses heat vision that can melt steel, X-ray vision that allows him to see through most solid objects, and super hearing that can pick up sounds hundreds of miles away.

Before Superman's arrival, Metropolis had never

seen anyone like him. There was nothing he couldn't do, and everyone loved him for it—everyone except one man: Lex Luthor. Luthor, a brilliant scientist and successful businessman, resented the popular newcomer. Finding that Superman's loyal acs could not be bought, Luthor decided to destroy him instead. Luthor never succeeded, but no one could ever prove that he was behind the plots.

One of those plots involved kryptonite, a glowing green mineral from the destroyed world of Super-
man's birth that can drain his super-powers and kill him. Luthor wore a chunk of kryptonite set in a ring, not realizing that the radioactive substance could prove fatal to Earthlings, too. Gravely ill, Luthor faked his own death and had his brain transplanted into a healthy new body cloned from his own. Luthor returned, pretending to be his son, Lex Luthor II, and once again arrived as the wealthiest man in Metropolis.

When not protecting Metropolis as Superman, Clark works as a reporter with the *Daily Planet*. At

first, he and Lois Lane were rivals. It wasn't long, however, before they became friends and eventually fell in love. Finally, Clark proposed marriage to Lois. After she said yes, he revealed that he was secretly Superman. Lois was shocked, but she had always suspected there was something more to Clark. She also realized she still loved him and wanted to marry him.

For years, Superman continued to defend the Earth from all who threatened it. Dr. K. J. Grave, Brainiac, Mr. Mxyzptlk, Mongul, Met-allo, and many others. Then came the foe even Superman couldn't beat: Doomsday. It took

everything Superman had to beat the monster—and it cost him his life.

A series of one-in-a-million chances brought Superman back from the dead. After his miraculous return, he continues to battle against evil and injustice as the Earth's greatest hero. —Scott Peterson



SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE DOOMED PLANET KRYPTON, CLARK KENT GROWN UP TO DISCOVER THAT HE POSSESSED POWERS AND ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN. NOW HE USES THESE POWERS TO FIGHT A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY AS THE EARTH'S GREATEST HERO.

SUPERMAN

MECHANICAL MONSTERS

OLSEN IS THE NAME. JAMES BARTHOLOMEW KENT. BUT YOU CAN CALL ME JIMMY!

I'M A PHOTODUPLICATION FOR THE METROPOLIS DAILY PLANET. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS PAPERS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY. WORKING FOR THE PLANET I'VE MET ALL KINDS OF POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE.

OF ALL THE ONES I'VE MET, JIMMY, THE GREATEST & THE BEST FRIEND ANYONE EVER HAD.

BUT HE'S ALSO MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES. LIKE PROFESSOR THADDEUS KILL GRAVE.

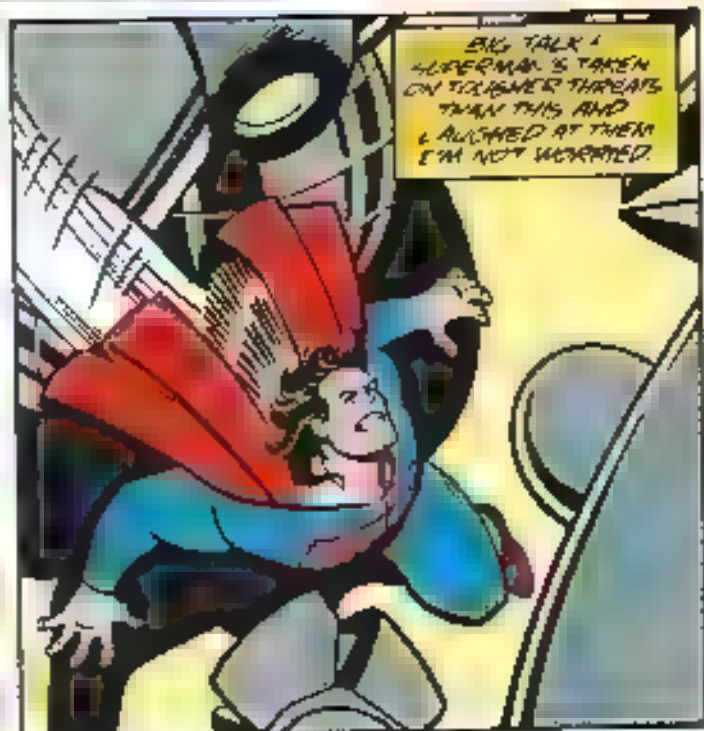
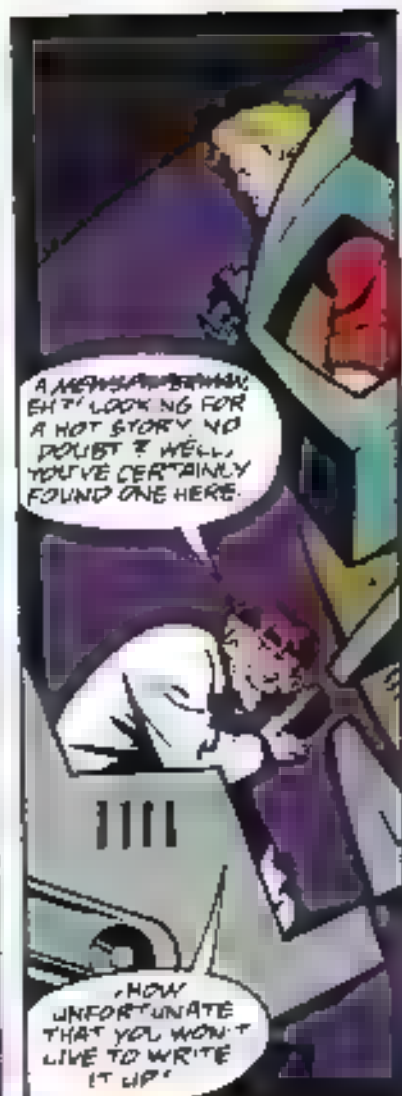
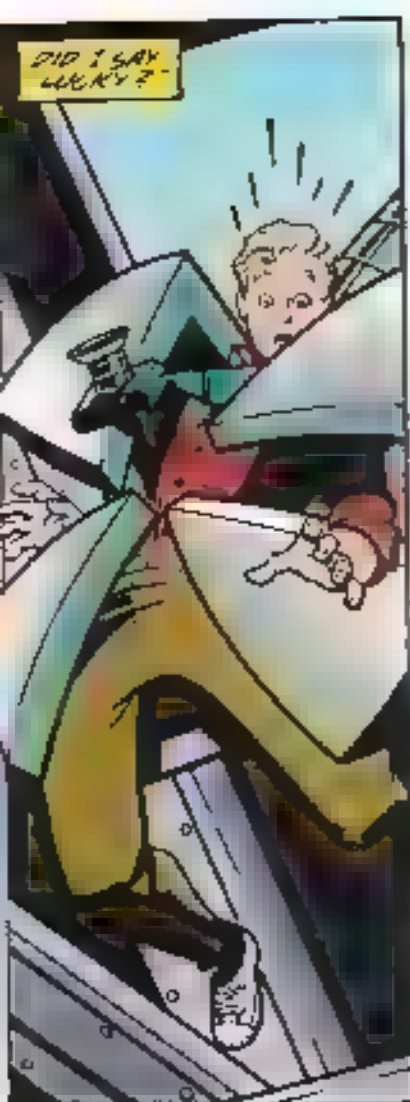
KILL GRAVE IS A KIM VIL SWENST WINDON. I USED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO EAT MY MONEY FROM THE CITY BEFORE SUPERMAN STOPPED HIM. HE'S HAD IT IN FOR SUPERMAN EVER SINCE.

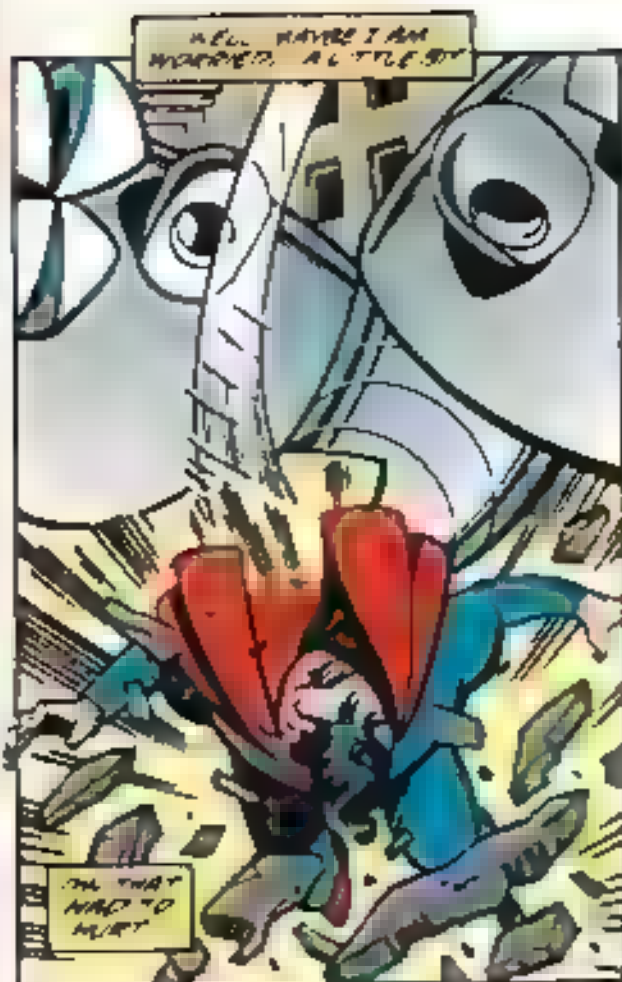
KILL GRAVE BROKE OUT IN PRISON JUST LAST NIGHT. I'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE THEN.

I'VE BEEN BUSY, TOO. I'VE BEEN UP MOST OF THE NIGHT TRYING TO GET A LEAD ON KILL GRAVE THIS MORNING. I GOT LUCKY.

ROGER STERN - WRITER
MIKE FORTNECK - PENCILLER
RICK BURCHETT - INKER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
CHARLES KEEHMAN - EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY Siegel & JOE SHUSTER



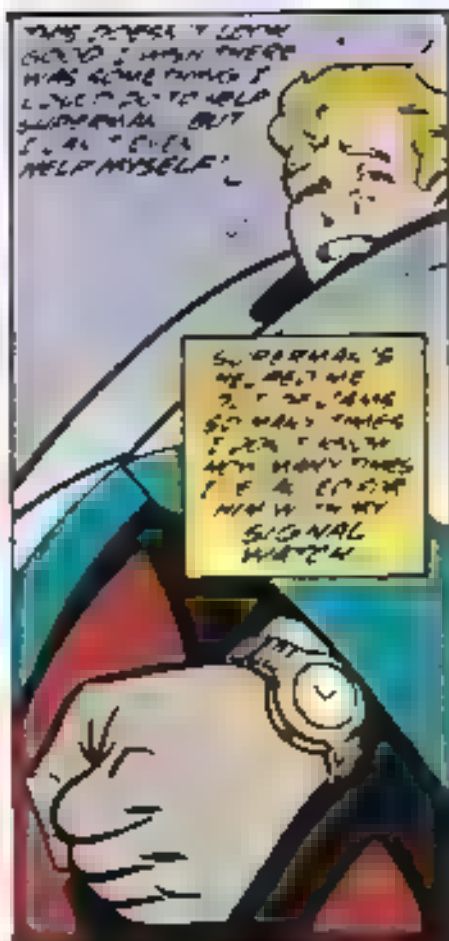
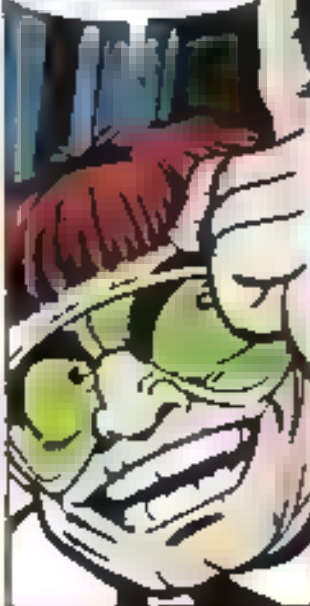


WELL, MAYBE I AM
WORRIED, A LITTLE BIT

THAT
HAD TO
HURT

OSEN OSEN I
KNOW THAT NAME
YOU'VE TAKEN PICTURES
OF SUPERMAN IN ACTION
BEFORE HAVEN'T YOU?

I'LL BET YOU WISH
THAT YOU HAD YOUR
HANDS FREE TO CAPTURE
THIS MOMENT ON FILM
NOT TO MENTION, IT
WOULDN'T BE LOST, I'M
KEEPING EVERYTHING
FOR POSTERITY

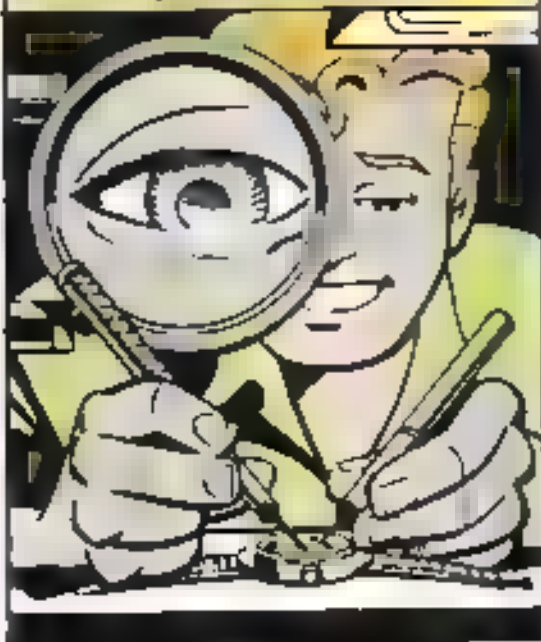


THIS WATCH I LOVE
GIVEN I KNOW THERE
WAS SOME THING I
LOVE TO DO TO HELP
SUPERMAN BUT
I CAN'T EVEN
HELP MYSELF

SUPERMAN'S
HE, BUT HE
I'VE BEEN
SO MANY TIMES
I CAN'T EVEN
HELP MYSELF
I'VE BEEN
HOLDING MY
SIGNAL
WATCH

SEE I JUST DISCOVERED THAT I CAN GET
SUPERMAN'S ATTENTION BY HOLDING
AN ULTRASOUND SIGNAL, THAT ONLY HE
COULD HEAR

HE WAS PRETTY NICE, BUT I
COULDN'T GET AN ANSWER TO
GET INTO HIS HEAD. SO I
PROMISED HIM THAT I'D BE THE SIGNAL
ONLY IN THE MOST EMERGENCIES

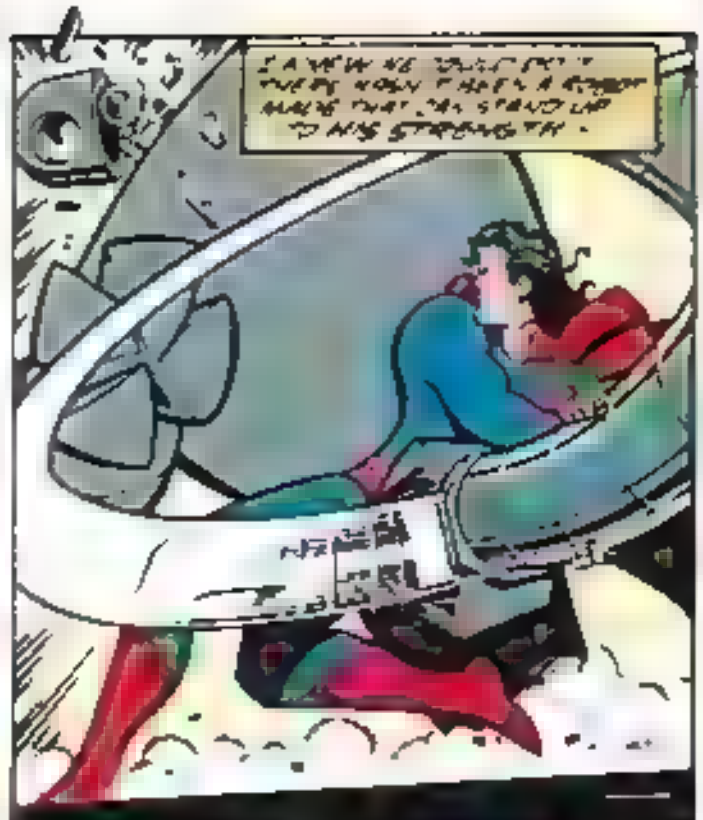


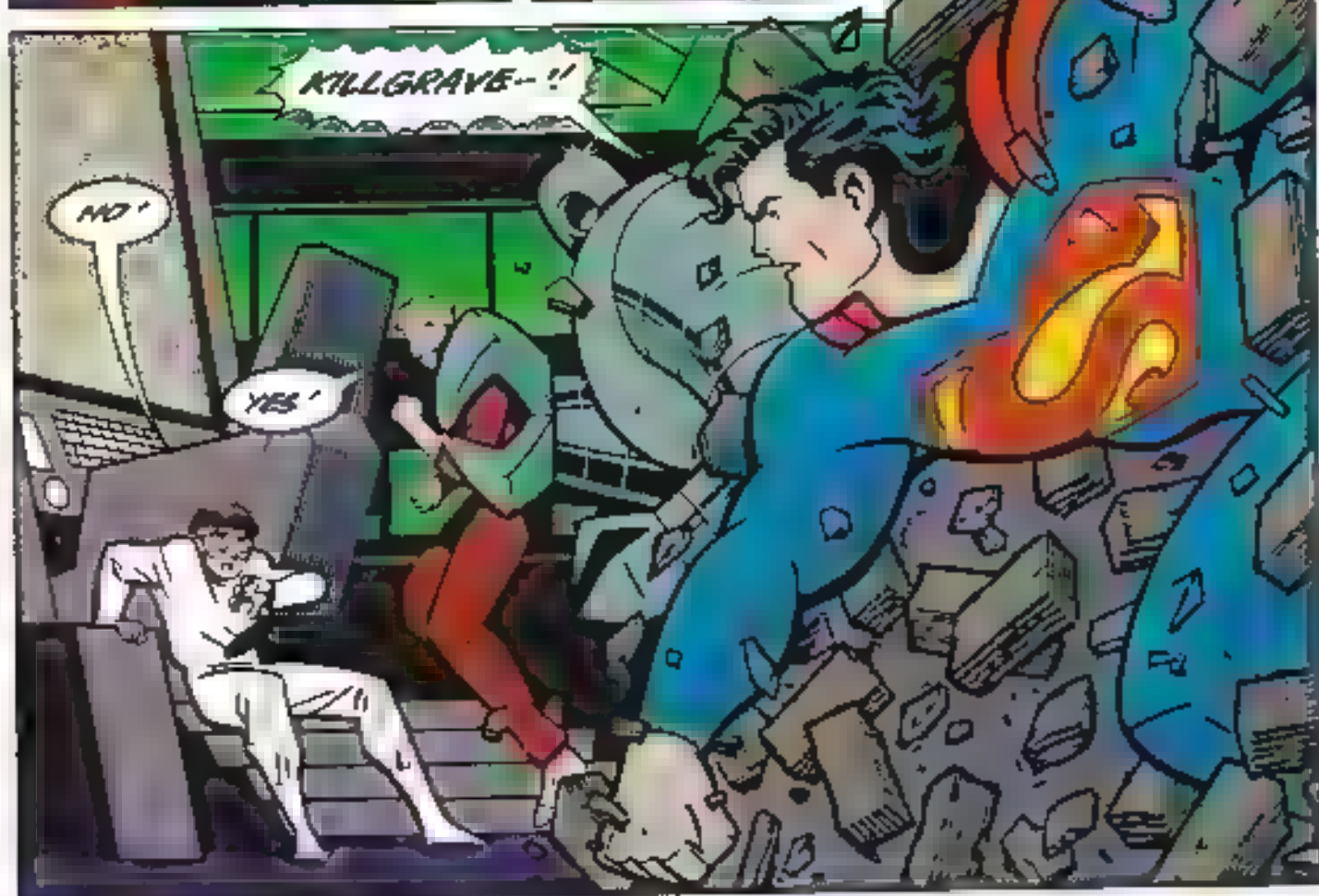
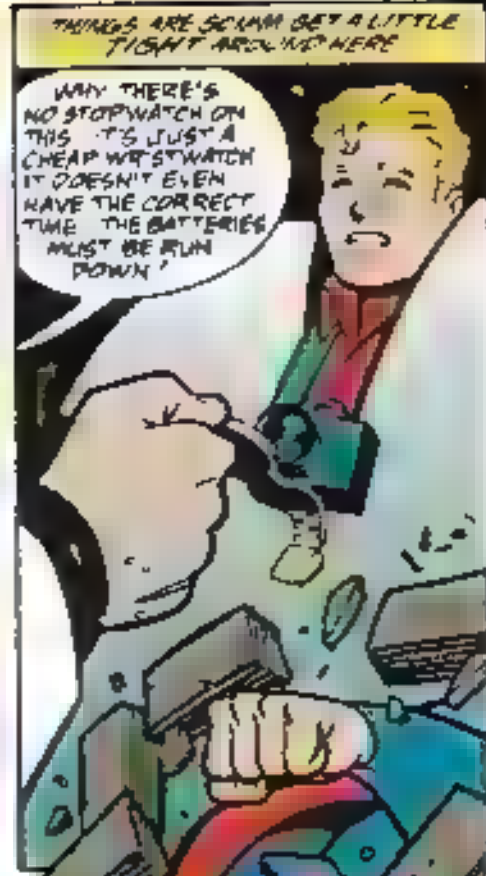
THE ONLY I'M A SURE OF ALL THIS IS AN EMERGENCY BUT I
WOULDN'T SIGNAL HIM WITH IT IF I HAD MY HANDS FREE
TO DO THE SIGNAL

THE LAST THING HE NEEDS WHEN
HE'S SIGNALING IS A DISTRACTION



WHAT'S
THIS - ?







IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...

BATMAN™

We hope that you have enjoyed reading all the adventures in this issue of **I Love to Read Batman**.

Now you can look forward to the third issue which will have even more exciting stories.



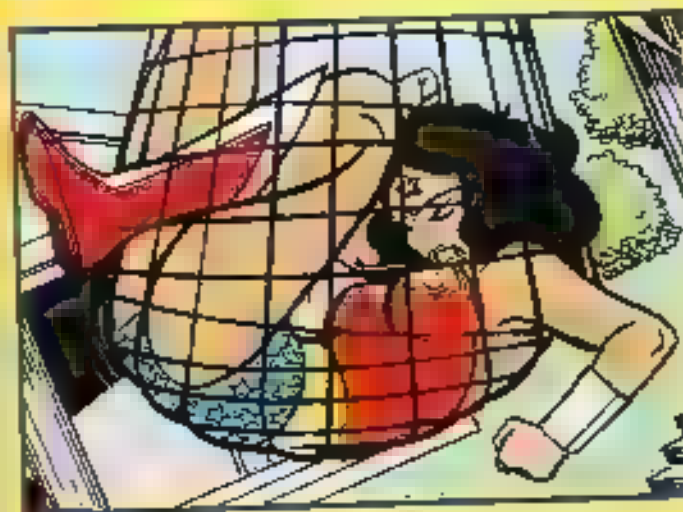
In "Cat and Mouse" you will read how Batman catches **Catwoman**, his formidable feline opponent, at the scene of one of her crimes. Join us as a dramatic chase through Gotham City follows!

In another Batman story, Robin joins the Dark Knight in "Riddler On the Loose" as **The Riddler** leaves them some deadly riddles to solve.



Find out what devious plans The Prince of Puzzlers has up his sleeves. Will Batman and Robin be able to stop him from carrying them out and causing havoc in Gotham?

Wonder Woman will also feature in issue three of **I Love to Read Batman** with her own **Hero File** page as well as her comic strip story, "Truth or Dare". The Amazon Princess gets a little tied up as you can see!



Additionally, you will be able to remove and keep a super double-page poster of Wonder Woman to stick on your bedroom wall.

FINALLY WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED
READING ALL ABOUT THE BONE
HERE WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT
PAGE FROM OUR WORKBOOK
FOR PUZZLE LOVERS

Kellogg's
HONEY NUT
LOOPS
ALL THE GOODNESS OF OATS

Explore the exciting world
of **Mighty Max** with the
latest fantastic offer from
Kellogg's Honey Nut Loops

There are two gruesome **Mighty Max Horror
Heads** to collect including the underwater
world of **Seasquirm** and the reactor base of
the **Nuke Ranger**.

You can create brilliant, spine-
chilling adventures with each **Mighty
Max Horror Head** and test the
powers of **Mighty Max** to the limit.



Amiebird

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Just
collect eight tokens
from special packs of
Kellogg's Honey Nut Loops for either
Seasquirm or **Nuke Ranger Horror Heads**. Help **Mighty
Max** battle against the evil giants of the **Horror Zone**!

Kellogg's
HONEY NUT
LOOPS



FREE

**Polly
Pocket**



AUTOCOILLANTS
GRATUITS



MAGAZINE

MENSUEL N°32
FÉVRIER 1997

BATMAN™

CE MOIS :



L'INTÉRIEUR



A L'INTERIEUR :
CAHIER-JEUX
DETACHABLE

FRANCE : 13 F

Belgique 95 FB

Suisse 3.80 FS

Canada 2.95 D.C

dans

LA CHASSE EST OUVERTE

L'inspecteur Harvey Bullock de la police de Gotham est un "dur" et n'apprécie pas que Batman "chasse" sur son territoire.

Un soir qu'il arrête un criminel, une silhouette familière se découpe contre le ciel...

TE MÊLE PAS DE ÇA, BATMAN !

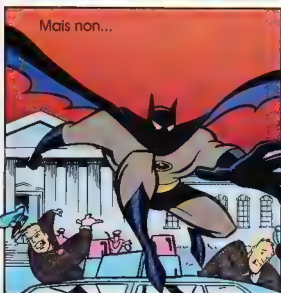
A la grande surprise de Bullock, le justicier l'attaque. Etonné, le bandit en profite pour filer...

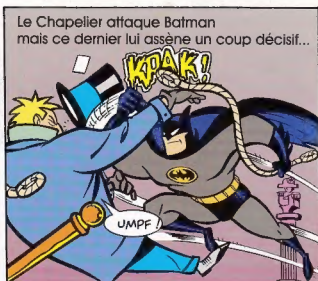
BATMAN A RETOURNÉ SA "CAPE" !

Le lendemain matin, le Commissaire Gordon est bien obligé de se rendre à l'évidence : "Batman est passé du côté des bandits !"

IL FAUT L'ARRÊTER. ON N'A PAS LE CHOIX !









DANS

COURSE-POURSUITE!

"Quoi ? La Batmobile a eu un accident ?" Dick Grayson n'en croit pas ses oreilles.

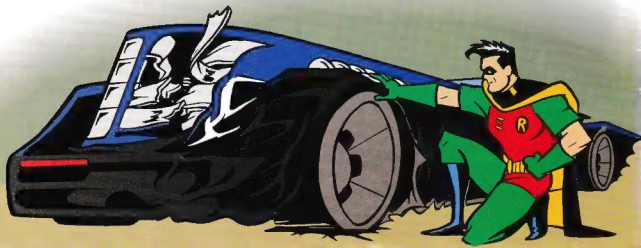
Et pourtant, Alfred, le fidèle maître d'hôtel de Bruce Wayne, qui accueille Dick à son retour de l'Université confirme l'incroyable nouvelle et ajoute : "Je laisse à Monsieur Bruce le soin de vous en dire plus. Il est en train de la réparer dans la Batcave."

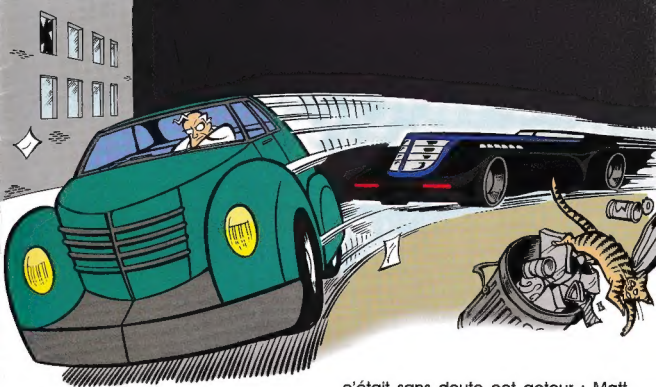
Le jeune homme s'élance dans l'escalier qui mène sous le manoir Wayne, où se trouve le repaire de Batman. Il est bouleversé. Penser que la Batmobile, véritable chef d'oeuvre de mécanique, a pu être mêlée à un banal accident de la

circulation est tout simplement aussi scandaleux que si l'on disait d'elle que c'est une... voiture !

Souvent, il a eu l'occasion de s'asseoir dans le bolide aux côtés de Batman. Il est alors Robin. Et chaque fois que lui et le chevalier de la nuit volent au secours des opprimés, il s'émerveille des talents de pilote de son ami.

Dick dégringole les dernières marches et voit Bruce Wayne, le millionnaire qui combat le crime sous l'identité secrète de Batman, debout devant la Batmobile. Et c'est vrai que les dégâts sont impressionnants ! L'avant, si merveilleusement profilé, est complètement enfoncé. Quant à





la très aérodynamique grille du radiateur, qui protège le monstrueux moteur, elle a été en partie arrachée. L'aile côté conducteur s'est affaissée, ce qui a fait exploser le pneu, qui est littéralement en lambeaux.

"Ca a dû être un sacré choc," constate Dick. Il espère bien que Bruce va lui révéler toute l'affaire...

Tout a commencé quand le Commissaire Gordon a demandé l'aide de Batman après que les gardiens de la grande banque de Gotham ont appelé la police. "Un homme s'est présenté à l'entrée après minuit. Il ressemblait trait pour trait à leur patron mais ils étaient sûrs que c'était un imposteur. Le vrai directeur était en effet parti en voyage d'affaires en Europe dans l'après-midi."

"Trait pour trait, dis-tu ? Alors,

c'était sans doute cet acteur : Matt Hagen, alias **Clayface** ! A ma connaissance, c'est le seul vilain capable de changer complètement d'aspect. Il pourrait très facilement devenir l'exacte réplique de quelqu'un."

Bruce hoche la tête. L'intuition de son jeune ami est juste. Et il ajoute que Clayface a bondi dans sa voiture quand les gardes lui ont interdit l'entrée de la banque. "Il a essayé de défoncer les barrières de sécurité et reculait pour une deuxième tentative quand je suis arrivé avec la Batmobile."

Dick esquisse un sourire. "J'y suis. Il a voulu jouer aux autos tamponneuses avec toi. Mais sa voiture n'était pas de taille contre la Batmobile. Quel idiot !"

"Non," corrige Bruce. "En fait, quand il m'a vu, il a essayé de s'enfuir. Les gardes n'avaient rien, alors j'ai appuyé sur le champignon et je

me suis lancé à sa poursuite. Sa voiture était rapide mais pas assez pour la Batmobile. Quelques centaines de mètres plus loin, je l'avais rattrapé."

"Maintenant, je comprends. Quand la Batmobile s'est retrouvée à sa hauteur, il t'a foncé dedans pour te faire sortir de la route ! Mais bien sûr, il y a laissé sa voiture !"

"C'est sûrement ce qui serait arrivé s'il avait essayé..." Dick fronce les sourcils, très intrigué.

"Nous étions dans le centre-ville et malgré l'heure tardive, il y avait beaucoup de monde. Il aurait donc été trop dangereux d'utiliser les armes de la Batmobile. Mais il fallait absolument que je l'arrête. A la vitesse où nous roulions, s'il avait perdu le contrôle de son véhicule, il aurait écrasé des dizaines de piétons. Je devais monter à bord de sa voiture. C'était le seul espoir que tout ça se termine sans trop de dégâts. J'étais juste derrière lui et j'ai lancé un grappin. Après, il fallait faire vite : d'abord bloquer le filin du grappin, puis couper le moteur et enfin m'éjecter de la Batmobile."

Dick est sur le point de parler, mais Bruce le coupe en secouant la tête. "Non, ce n'est pas à ce moment là non plus. Mon grappin a brisé la vitre arrière et s'est accroché au siège. J'ai coupé les gaz et la Batmobile s'est arrêtée."

"Toujours accroché au filin, j'ai été projeté sur la voiture de

Clayface, et, sans la traction exercée par le grappin, j'aurais sûrement fini sur le macadam. C'est alors qu'une voiture de police nous a croisés à toute allure. Clayface s'est mis à zigzaguer pour m'éjecter. Mais le filin se rembobinait toujours et me tirait vers l'intérieur de la voiture."

"Et une fois que tu as été dedans, il ne restait plus à Clayface que l'option de la prison. Il n'avait pas le choix. Il s'est garé et il s'est rendu," achève Dick. "Mais ça n'explique pas comment la Batmobile..." Après quelques secondes de réflexion, il ajoute : "Sauf que... tu as parlé d'une voiture de police..."

"Très perspicace," sourit Bruce. "C'est notre cher ami Harvey Bullock qui était au volant. Et quand il m'a vu accroché à la voiture de Clayface, il a voulu faire un demi-tour au frein à main..."

"Oh, non," gémit Dick en se représentant la scène. "Il l'a complètement loupé et il a foncé droit dans la Batmobile. Et si j'en juge par l'état de ta voiture, j'imagine que la sienne doit être en miettes..."

Fin

